

Clarkia Ranger Station, Cottage No. 3
West of Highway 3, .5 mile North of Clarkia
Clarkia Vicinity
Shoshone County
Idaho

HABS No. ID-120-C

HABS
ID
40-CLARK.V
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Columbia Cascades System Support Office
909 First Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104-1060

HABS
ID
40-CLARK.V
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Clarkia Ranger Station, Cottage #3

HABS NO. ID-120-C

Location: West of Highway 3, 0.5 mile North of Clarkia
In the vicinity of Clarkia
Shoshone County
Idaho

U.S.G.S. Clarkia, Idaho Quadrangle (7.5)
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
11. 556120 5207240

Present Owner:
Idaho Panhandle National Forests
St. Maries Ranger district
P.O. Box 407
St. Maries, Idaho 83861-0407

Present Use:
Abandoned

Last Occupant and Use:
St. Maries Ranger District, Residence

Significance:
The cottage is part of the Clarkia Ranger Station which is considered eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion a, due to its association with the Forest Service--a leading conservation agency in the region. The layout of the station and design of the buildings is typical of district headquarters, which were newly established during the late 1930s and early 1940s. Most of the major buildings were designed according to a common architectural theme, which is seen at other similar properties on different forest throughout the region. The historical buildings present may be considered eligible under National Register criterion c, since they are representative of a standard style of building construction used at semi-rural properties during the 1940s period. The use of wood frame buildings with finishing materials which give a rustic appearance, is typical of this period.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: 1943.
2. Architect: unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners:
1941 - 1972 Clarkia Ranger District, St. Joe National Forest
1972 - Present St. Maries Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forests
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: unknown.
5. Original plans and construction: No original plans known. Plans similar to the Clarkia Cottage are in Norcross (1938).
6. Alterations and additions:
Alterations to the original structure include modifications to the interior arrangements and enclosing a front porch. The date and exact character of these alternatives is not known.

B. Historical Context

Cottage No. 3 is part of the Clarkia Ranger Station, formerly the headquarters for the Clarkia Ranger District.

The Clarkia Ranger District, established in 1932, is composed in large part of land donated to the Forest Service by bereft timber companies and private landholders. Prior to construction of the current station in the early 1940s, Forest Service administrative personnel were housed in a deserted Potlatch lumber camp. Improvements continued to be added during the decades of the 1940s, 50s and 60s. Following consolidation of the Calder and Clarkia Districts in 1972, the Forest Service moved the District headquarters to St. Maries, and downgraded Clarkia Ranger Station to a work center (USDA Forest Service 1976: 127, 128, 147).

Construction of the "Clarkia Ranger Station and Nursery Site," first proposed in 1932, was delayed due to "the uncertainty of (ECW and Public Works) allotments." The Milwaukee railroad's high asking price for a suitable nursery site also slowed development: "I am not inclined to pay any fancy price for a nursery site in the St. Maries

valley.....The Ranger Station is, of course, more urgent, but there are many sites suitable for the ranger station which would not meet requirements for a nursery(Kelley 1935." Nursery plans were eventually abandoned.

A 1941 memo concerning the construction of the Clarkia Station describes the Administration Building (building # 2010), the Shop-Garage (building #2138), a Warehouse, the Gas and Oil House (building #2502), and the Ranger Dwelling with detached garage (buildings #1038 and #1504). Local carpenters (LEM's supervised the 30-man CCC crew from the neighboring Clarkia camp (Fickes 1941). All buildings were based on standard plans provided by William Fox and Clyde Fickes and the Regional Office, and approved by the Regional Forester. With the exception of the original warehouse, this historic complex remains intact. It is, however, surrounded by modern structures.

The three "cottages," assigned 1943 construction dates by the district, do not appear on the 1941 memo and were probably not constructed by the CCC. Bunkhouse #1323 (also known as the women's bunkhouse), assigned a 1942 date, also does not appear on the 1941 memo. It may represent the converted warehouse.

Between 1948 and 1952, a warehouse from the Canyon Prison Camp (Clearwater National Forest), two temporary bunkhouses, and a temporary cookhouse were established for the use of blister rust control (BRC) crews. The Forest Service purchased 17 adjoining acres for the structures, dividing the site into separate administrative and work-center areas. This new development eliminated the "expense of erecting and tearing down (summer BRC) camps". Between 1959 and 1961, the Forest Service replaced these temporary improvements with permanent buildings represented by Buildings #1302, #1406 and #1303.

Additional construction during this time period included the two ranch-style dwellings, two additional residence garages and a wing-addition to the original historic dwelling #1038. It is not known when the warehouse was removed (O-Improvement Memo, December 14, 1948; Linthacum 1951; Lowary 1951; O(E) Improvements Memo, May 10, 1951; Emerson 1950).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The building is an example of the rustic period of architectural design in the Forest Service that ended in the early 1940's. Stylistic influences include Craftsman and Cape Cod models.
2. Conditions of Fabric: The interior condition is fair to poor due to changes in the original design and to lack of maintenance for the last 10 years.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 36'6" x 22'6". The building is one and one half story single detached structure. The building is rectangular with an enclosed back porch on the southeast corner.
2. Foundations: The low foundation consists of a concrete block perimeter wall presumably on a concrete footing.
3. Walls: The upper two thirds of the exterior walls and the gable ends are covered with vertical board and batten siding. Horizontal weather board siding covers the lower one third of the exterior walls.
4. Structural Systems, Framing: The structure is a balloon frame building with approximately 6" walls and framed roof.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The front and back doors are two panel wood doors.
 - b. Windows: The original windows consist of nine-lite sliding sash, two-over-two-lite double hung sash, six-lite swing down casement and one-over-one-lite double-hung wood framed windows.
6. Roof: The roof is a 12/12 pitch gable. An attached shed roof covers the enclosed back porch. The original covering consisted of wood shingles. The covering now on the roof is sheet metal.

C. Description of Interior:

1. The present floor plan is attached; the interior has been partly remodeled. The first floor is divided into a kitchen, living room, bath, bedroom and porch. A steep narrow stair case accesses the second floor which contains one long bedroom area.
2. Flooring: The original wood floor is now covered by a variety of carpet and linoleum.
3. Wall and Ceiling Finish: The walls are knotty pine and wall board. The ceilings are covered with commercial ceiling tile.
4. Mechanical Equipment: The remaining heating equipment consists of electric baseboard heating units.

D. Site:

1. The building faces southeast and into a loop road designed as a residential area for Forest Service employees.

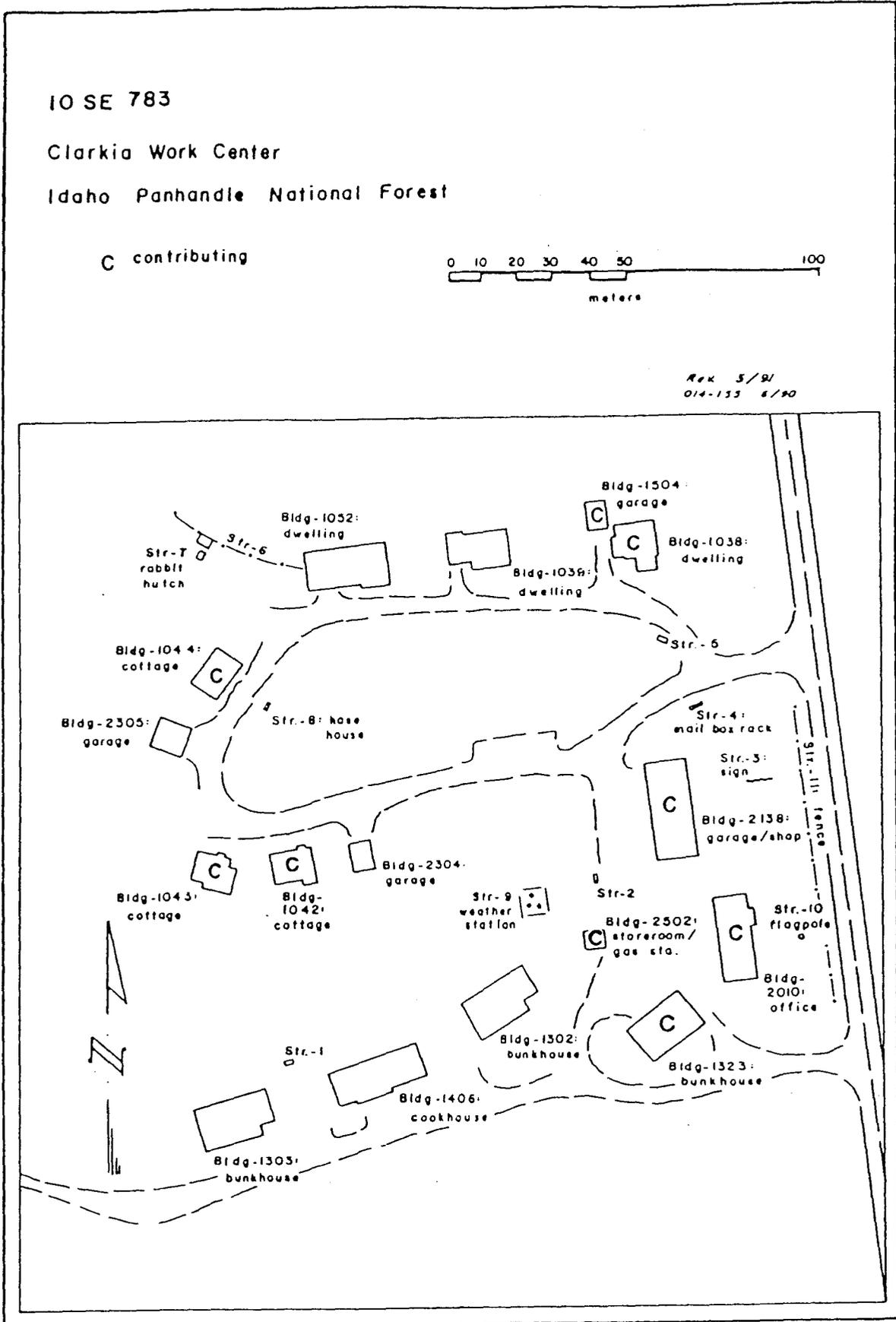
PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Bibliography

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1950 O-Improvement Memo to Regional Forester, December 19.
- Bolton, Joy and A. Hubber
1990 National Register of Historic Places, Registration Form. Clarkia Ranger Station. Historical Research Associates, Inc. Missoula.
- Kelley, Evan W.
1935 Memo (S-Nurseries) to Fitting, Forest Supervisor, June 4.
- Linthacum, V. T.
1951 Improvement Memo to R. Harmon, Assistant Regional Forester, March 2.
- Lowary, T. A.
1951 Memo to James C. Iler, Assistant Regional Forester, April 26.
- Norcross, T. W.
1938 Acceptable Plans Forest Service Administrative Buildings. Pacific Northwest Region. Portland.
- O(E) Improvement Memo
1951 Memo to P.D. Hanson, Regional Forester, May 10.
- 1948 Memo to J. C. Iler, Assistant Regional Forester and F.E. Thieme, Assistant Regional Engineer, December 14.
- USDA, Forest Service
1976 Early Days in the Forest Service, Vol. IV. Northern Region. Missoula.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

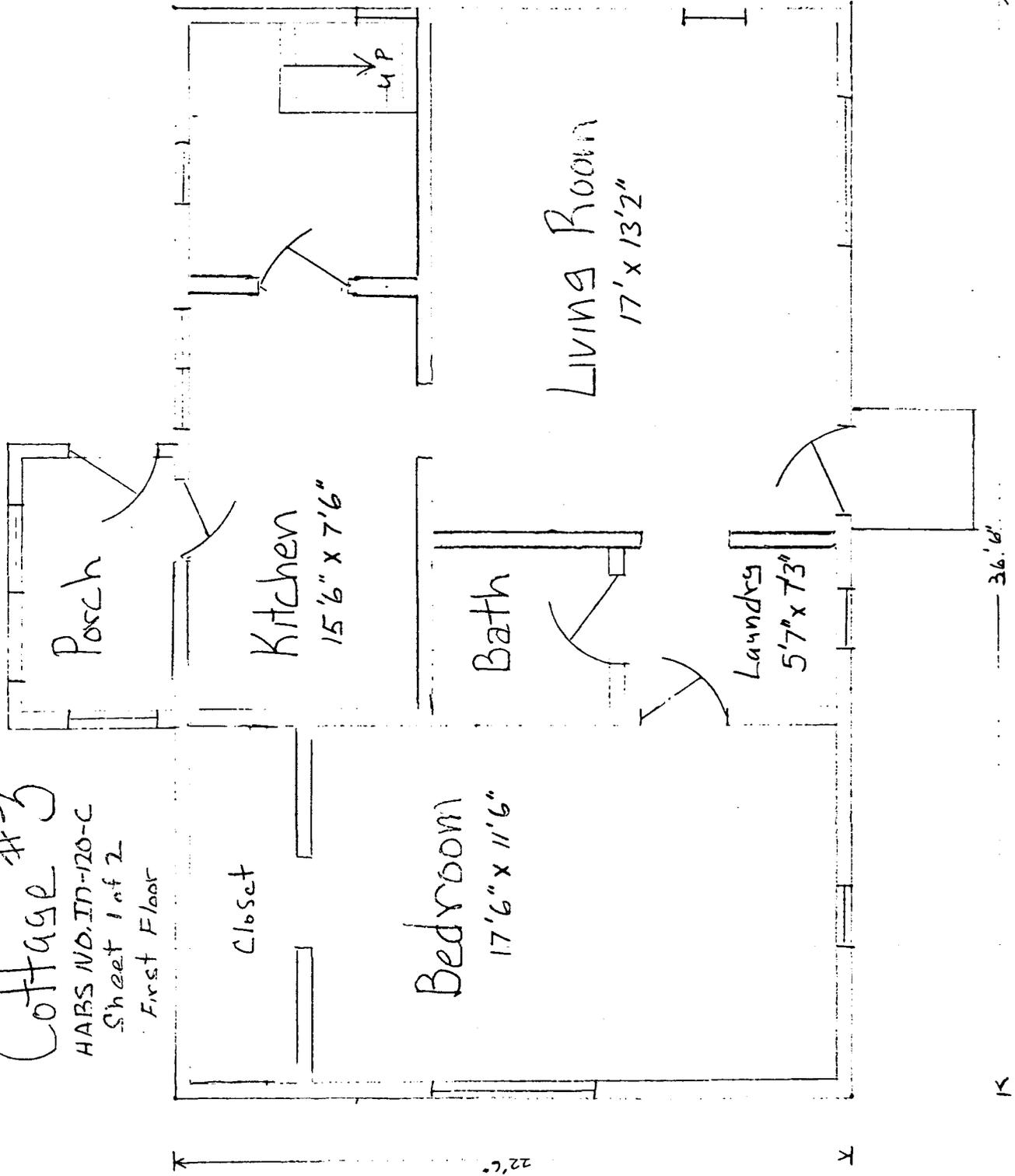
This project is a mitigative recording required by a memorandum of Agreement between the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Cort Sims, Forest Archaeologist for the Idaho Panhandle National Forests prepared the written documentation. Major sections of the documentation are taken verbatim from a National Register Nomination form prepared by Historical Research Associates, Inc., P.O. Box 7086, Missoula, Montana 59807-7086.



Sketch Map of Clarkia Work Center: Cottage 1 is Bldg-1042, Cottage 2 is Bldg-1043, Cottage 3 is Bldg-1044.

Clarkia Ranger Station

Cottage #3
HABS NO. ID-120-C
Sheet 1 of 2
First Floor



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Clarkia Ranger Station
Cottage #3

HABS No. ID-120-C.
Sheet 2 of 2
Second Floor

